25. The method of Claim 24 wherein the first and second images comprise extended field of view images.

26. The method of Claim 24 wherein the at least two frames of (b) are acquired from different spatial regions.

27. The method of Claim 26 wherein the at least two frames of (c) are acquired from different spatial regions.

28. The method of Claim 24 wherein the at least two frames of (b) are acquired from substantially co-planar, partially overlapping spatial regions.

29. The method of Claim 24 wherein the at least two frames of (b) are acquired from non-coplanar spatial regions.

30. The method of Claim 24 further comprising:

(e) registering the image data acquired in (a) in at least one 3-D data set prior to (b) and (c).

31. The method of Claim 24 further comprising:

(f) registering the image data acquired in (a) in at least one extended field of view data set prior to (b) and (c).

32. An ultrasonic imaging system comprising:

(a) means for acquiring image date for a plurality of frames, each frame identified with a respective phase of a physiological cycle;

(b) means for generating a first image from image data from at least two of the frames of (a) associated with a first phase of the physiological cycle;

(c) means for generating a second image from image data from at least two of the frames of (a) associated with a second phase of the physiological cycle; and

(d) means for displaying at least the first and second images in sequence to a user.

33. The invention of Claim 32 wherein the first and second images comprise extended field of view images.

34. The invention of Claim 32 wherein the at least two frames of (b) are acquired from different spatial regions.

35. The invention of Claim 34 wherein the at least two frames of (c) are acquired from different spatial regions.

36. The invention of Claim 32 wherein the at least two frames of (b) are acquired from substantially co-planar, partially overlapping spatial regions.

37. The invention of Claim 32 wherein the at least two frames of (b) are acquired from non-coplanar spatial regions.

38. The invention of Claim 32 further comprising:

means for registering the image data acquired in (a) in at least one 3-D data set.

39. The invention of Claim 32 further comprising:

means for registering the image data acquired in (a) in at least one extended field of views data set.

REMARKS

In the Office Action of August 28, 2000 of the parent application, Claims 1-23 were rejected as unpatentable over Gandini U.S. Patent 5,645,066. This was the only prior art reference applied in this Office Action.

In order to expedite prosecution, Applicant has cancelled rejected Claims 1-23 and replaced them with new Claims 24-39. Applicant has studied the Gandini patent carefully, and Applicant submits that pending Claims 24-39 (as well as cancelled Claims 1-23) are clearly patentable over Gandini. However, new Claims 24-39 are cast in different terms than Claims 1-23, and new Claims 24-39 bring out the patentable differences between the present invention and the Gandini patent in a very clear and immediate way.